



Linda F. Golodner
President

NATIONAL CONSUMERS LEAGUE

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June 19, 2001

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Dingell:

The National Consumers League, America's oldest nonprofit advocacy organization, is pleased to support H.R. 526, the Patients' Bill of Rights. Americans are being asked to take more responsibility for their own health care, and this legislation will provide protections they greatly need and deserve.

Consumers need a bill that protects the rights of all consumers covered by health insurance, not just those in self-insured plans. These important protections include: having medical decisions made by a doctor, not an administrator or accountant; access to specialists; a continuity of care if health plans are switched; an independent appeals process; and the ability to hold managed care companies accountable when their decisions to withhold or limit care injure consumers.

H.R. 526 provides these protections, and we commend you for fighting to ensure such rights for consumers. The National Consumers League urges you to continue your tireless efforts to bring real patient protections to all Americans. Thank you very much for your commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Linda F. Golodner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LINDA F. GOLODNER
President